

received by the Senate. The averment of a member, or of somebody without doors, that they know the handwriting of the petitioners, is necessary, if it be questioned. *6 Grey, 36*. It must be presented by a member, not by the petitioners, and must be opened by him holding it in his hand. *10 Grey, 57*.

In the House petitions have been presented for many years by filing with the Clerk (clause 3 of rule XII). Members file them, and petitioners do not attend on the House in the sense implied in the parliamentary law. In cases in which a petition set forth serious changes, the petitioner was required to have his signature attested by a notary (III, 2030, footnote).

Regularly a motion for receiving it must be made and seconded, and a question put, whether it shall be received, but a cry from the House of “received,” or even silence, dispenses with the formality of this question. It is then to be read at the table and disposed of.

§ 391. Parliamentary law for the reception of petitions.

Before the adoption of the provisions of clause 3 of rule XII, petitions were presented from the floor by Members, and questions frequently arose as to the reception thereof (IV, 3350–3356). But under the present practice such procedure does not occur.

## SEC. XX—MOTION

When a motion has been made, it is not to be put to the question or debated until it is seconded. *Scob., 21*.

§ 392. Parliamentary law as to making, withdrawing, and reading of motions.

It is then, and not till then, in possession of the House, and can not be withdrawn but by leave of the House. It is to be put into writing, if the House or Speaker require it, and must be read to the House by the Speaker as often as

any Member desires it for his information. 2  
*Hats.*, 82.

The House has long since dispensed with the requirement of a second for ordinary motions (clause 1 of rule XVI; V, 5304); and the requirement of a second for a motion to suspend the rules was eliminated in the 102d Congress (H. Res. 5, Jan. 3, 1991, p. 39). Clause 2 of rule XVI provides further that a motion may be withdrawn before decision or amendment (see § 904, *infra*); and clause 1 of the same rule provides that the motion shall be reduced to writing on the demand of any Member (see § 902, *infra*). In the practice of the House, when a paper on which the House is to vote has been read once, the reading may not be required again unless the House shall order it read (V, 5260).

It might be asked whether a motion for adjournment or for the orders of the day can be made by one Member while another is speaking? It can not. When two Members offer to speak, he who rose first is to be heard, and it is a breach of order in another to interrupt him, unless by calling him to order if he departs from it. And the question of order being decided, he is still to be heard through. A call for adjournment, or for the order of the day, or for the question, by gentlemen from their seats, is not a motion. No motion can be made without rising and addressing the Chair. Such calls are themselves breaches of order, which, though the Member who has risen may respect, as an expression of impatience of the House against further debate, yet, if he chooses, he has a right to go on.

§ 393. Interruptions of the Member having the floor.

§ 394. Members required to rise to make motions, call for the order of business, etc.

The practice of the House has modified the principle that the Member who rises first is to be recognized (clause 2 of rule XVII); but in other respects the principles of this paragraph are in force.